POL 14 VIETS

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(1274) 28

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EXCISE

47
ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03 SC 01 RSC 01 USIA 12 H 02 NSC 10 L 03 INR 07 P 04 CIA 04
DOD 01 SP 02 SS 20 SAH 03 SAL 01 IO 21 NSAE 00 AID 30 RSR 01
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R 271146Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9762
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4774
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1259
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2929

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Sweeney DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 9755

CINCPAC FOR POLAD Pol 14 VIETS

REF: SAIGON 9443

1. WITH HOLDING OF THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS ON OCT 22, THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAS SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED THE TRANSORMATION OF ITS GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES FROM THOSE BASED ULTIMATELY ON A COUP D'ETAT TO THOSE CHOSEN DIRECTLY BY THE PEOPLE IN REASONABLY FAIR AND REASONABLY FREE ELECTIONS. A NEW NATIONAL LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN SELECTED THROUGH THE OPEN POLITICAL SYSTEM. THE RESULT MAY VERY WELL BE A SLOWING DOWN IN THE EFFICIENY OF GOVERNMENT IN SOME FIELDS

DUE TO THE LENGHT OF TIME THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO BRING THE

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EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT AND A BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE TO AGREE ON GIVEN PIECS OF LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, THE P_ITICAL BASE OF THE REGIME HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY BROADENED, AND THE ENTIRE POLITICALSYSTEM HAS BEEN LEGITIMIZED.

2. THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS PROVIDE A MORE ACCURATE GUIDE TO THE LIKELY FUTURE COURSE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT THAN DID THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION SINCE THRUGH ELECTIONS ON A SINGE MEMBER CONSITUTENCY BASIS IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE TO CHOOSE INDIVIDUAL DIRECTLY, RATHER THAN HAVING TOACCEPT "GRAB BAG" CANDIDATES FROM A SINGLE LIST, AS IN THE CASE OF THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS. THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS CONFIRMED A TREND ALREADY FAIRLY EVIDENT FROMTHE PRESIDENTIAL AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS: THE ECLIPSE OF THE TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND GROUPS AND THE EMERGENCE OF NEW CENTERS OF POLITICAL POWER AROUND WHICH THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE FUTURE ARE LIKELY TO FORM.

3. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GROUPT AFFILATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE LOWER HOUSE USED IN REFTEL AND IN THIS TEL

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ARE HIGHLY TENTATIVE, SINCE THEY ARE BASED ON ONLY FRAGMENTARY BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION. IN A NUMBER OF CASES THEY ARE UNAVOIDABLY OVERLAPPING, AS IN THE CASE OF A CATHOLIC MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET GROUP OR A MODERATE BUDDHIST WHO HAD SUPPORT FROM GENERAL DON'S NONG CONG BINH BLOC. IT IS CLEAR THAT MANY DEPTUES WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HAVE NOT YET MADE UP THEIR MIND AS TO HOW THEY WILL THEMSELVES LINE UP IN THE LOWER HOUSE, AND MOST HAVE DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON HOW MANY AND WHAT KIND OF BLOCS WILL BE FORMED.

4. THE VNQDD HAS MORE OR LESS DEFINITIVELY REACHED THE END OF THE ROAD. LONG SUSPECTED OF BEING A PARTY WITH ONLY LOCAL STRENGHT OF SUPPORT NATIONAL PRETENSIONS, ITS PRESIDENTIAL AND UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATES WERE HEAVILY DEFEATED, AND IT IS LEFT WITH ONLY 9 MEMBERSOF THE LOWER HOUSE, DIVIDED AMONG THE KY BO FACTION (FOR SEATS), THE

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VU HONG KHANH FACTION (3 SEATS), AND THE NGUEYN TUONG TAM FACTION (2 SEATS). THE DAI VIETS DID NO BETTER IN THE LOWR HOUSE ELECTIONS: THE REVOLUTINARY DAI VIES ELECTED 7 MEMBERS WE CAN IDENTIFY (THEY CLAIM 12), AND

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WE KNOW OF ONLY ONETAN DAI VIET WINNER, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PROBABLY A FEW MORE. THE REVOLUTINARY DAI VIETS BARELY ELECTED A SENATE SLATE (THAT OF NGUEYN NGOC KY), AND WITH THER SLENDER LOWER HOUSE REPRESENTATION THEY MAY BE ABLE TO SURVIVE FOR SOME TIME PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE WELL REPRESENTED IN NATIONA APPOINTIVE OFFICES. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT GENERAL THIEU WOULD LIKE TO FIND A MAJOR APPOINTIVE OFFICE FOR HA THUC KY, WHICH KY WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE OF PROMOTE THE DAI VIETS ORGANIZATIONALLY. HOWEVER, TO SURVIVE AND TO MAINTAIN INFLUENCE IN THE FUTURE THE DAI VIETS WILL SURELY HAVE THEIR WORK CUT OUT FOR THEM. THE HOA HAO SUPPORTED DEMOCRATIC SOCILAIST PARTY (DANG DAN CHU XA HOA) ELECTED ONLY TWO MEMBERS OF THE LOWER HOUSE (BOTH PROBABLY OF THE TRINH QUOC KHANH FACTION), AS OTHER FACTIONS OF THE PARTY BOYCOTTED THE ELECTIONS OUT OF PIQUE AT THE DEFEAT OF PHAM BA CAM IN THE SENATE ELECTIONS. THE SOCIALIST PARTY (DANG XA HOI VIETNAM) VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARED AS AN ORGAINIZTION. NEVER VERY ROBUST, ITS LEADING FIGURE, CO VAN HAI, ALSO BOYCOTTED THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS OUT OF DISAPPOINTMENT AT HIS DEFEAT IN THE UPPER HOUSE ELEC-

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TIONS. HAI HAS JOINED WITH THE MRS IN FORMING A KIND OF LOOSE ASSOCIATION, SO FAR STILL UNNAMED, DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF SOUTHERN REGIONAL INTERESTS. SO FAR, IT DOESNT AMOUNT TO MUCH.

5. OF THE NEW GROUPINGS, THE MOST INTERESTING AND POTENTIALLY THE MOST POWERFUL IS THE NONG CONG BINH GROUP LED BY SENATORE TRAN VAN DON. SENATOR DON GAVE US A LIST OF 78 CANDIDATES IN THE LOWER HOUSE WHICH THE NCB GROUP WAS SUPPORTING. WE HAVE

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BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY ONLY 20 ELECTED FROM THIS LIST, ALTHOUGH SENATOR DANG VAN SUNG, CHIEF NCB ORGANIZER, TOLD AN EMBOFF OCT 25 THAT 26 NCB CANDIATES HAD BEEN ELECTED TO THE LOWER HOUSE. THIS APPEARS POSSIBLE ONLY ON THE ASSMPTION THAT ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES "JOINED" THE NCB LIST AFTER THE "OFFICIAL" LIST OF 78 WAS PREPARED. DANG DUCH KHOI, GENERAL KY'S PRESS ADVISOR HAS TOLD US THAT MANY OF THE CANDIDATES WHO "JOINED" THE NCB LIST DID SO PURELY FOR OPPORTUNISTIC REASONS ANDHAD NOT COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO ANYTHING. SINCE THE NCB DOES NOT HAVE A PROGRAM AS YET. SENATOR SUNG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD (ACCORDING TO HIS CALCULATION) OF THE NCB LIST WAS ELECTED. HOWEVER, THE NCB GROUP

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ELECTED TO THE LOWER HOUSE IS THE LARGEST SINGEL BLOC. SUNG HAS SPOKEN OF A THREE STEP PROGRAM FOR THE NCB: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE UPPER ANDLOWER HOUSES, FORMATION OF A BLOC IN EACH OUSE, AND FORMATION OF A POLITICAL PARTY ON THAT FOUNDATION. THE NCB IS CERTAINLY WELL STARTED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM.

6. THE GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCES (DAI DOAN KET) GROUPING, WHICH ELECTED A SENATE SLATE (HEADED BY NGUEYN GIA HIEN), ELECTED AT LEAST 11 MEMBERSOF THE LOWER HOUSE, AND THE CATHOLIC CITIZENS' BLOC ELECTED 4 MEMBERS. SINCE THE CATHOLICS IN THE LOWER HOUSE TOTAL PROBABLY AT MOST ABOUT 34, OUT OF A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 137, THE RELATIVE SENSITIVITY TO A GROUPING OF CATHOLICS IS PROBABLY LESS THAN IT IS IN THE UPPER HOUSE, WITH 29 CATHOLICS OUT OF A TOTALMEMBERSHIP OF 60. ACCORDINGLY, THE GSF GROUP AND THE CATHOLIC CITIZENS' BLOC, TOGETHER WITH CATHOLICS FROM OTHER LISTS, MIGHT CONCEIVABLY MERGE TO FORM A LARGER BLOC IN THE LOWER HOUSE.
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INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04,
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9763
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4775
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7. THERE ARE ABOUT SIX MEMBERS OF THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTED WHO HAVE RECORDS OF IDENTIFICATION WITH THE MILITANT AN QUANG FACTION, PLUS AN ADDITIONALY 6-8 WINERS WHO ARE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ASSOCIATED WITH "POLITICAL BUDDHISM". THIS BY NO MEANS AMOUNTS TO TOTAL BUDDHIST STRENGHT IN THE LOWER HOUSE. WHICH WE ESTIMATE AT ABOUT 65 (WE HAVE IDENTIFIED 54 SO FAR) LUMPING TOGETHER BOTH MAHAYANA BUDDIST--48--AND THERAVADA BUDDHIST--6). HOWEVER, OTHER BUDDHIST ARE INCLUDED IN OTHER CATEGORIES, AND ONLY THOSE WHOSE PRIMARY IDENTIFICATION HAS BEEN WITH BUDDHIST GROUP AS SUCH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED UNDER THIS

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RUBRIC. THE SAME CONSIDERATION APPLIES TO THE CATHOLICS IN PARA 6 ABOVE.

8. ACCORDING TO LY QUI CHUNG, TEN CANDIDATES SUPPORTED BY

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THE MOVEMENT FOR THE RENAISSANCE OF THE SOUTH WER ELECTD TO THE LOWER HOUSE. WE HAVE BEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY ONLY FOUR. TOW OF THE MRS DEPUTIES, LY QUI CHUNG AND NGUEYN HUU CHUNG, WERE EFFECTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL CONSITUTENT ASSEMBLY DEPTUES AND APPEAR TO HAVE THE QUALITIES OF NATURL LEDERASHIP. THEY MAY EXERCISE AN INFLUENCE OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO THIER NUMBERS.

9. ON THE WHOLE, THE CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSOF THE LOWER HOUSE (INGORING OVERLAPPING) WE HAVE SO FAR IDENTIFED TOTAL BETWEEN 77 AND 92, THE DIFFERENCE BEING ACCOUNTED FOR BY CONFLICITNG CLAIMS AS TO THE NUMBER OF MEMERS FROM THE DIFFERENCT GROUPS ELECTED TO THE LOWER HOUSE. THIS LEAVES BETWEEN 45 AND 60 MEMBERS WHOSE POLITICAL PREDELECTIONS WE DO NOT ASYET KNOW AND WHO MUST FOR THE PRESENT BE CONSIDERED "INDEPENDENTS". IN A SENSE, VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE LOWER HOUSE CONSISTS OF "INDEPENDENTS" WHO CONDUCTED THIER OWN CAMPAIGNS, LARGELY ON A DOOR TO DOOR BASIS, WITH NOR ORGANIZED GROUP APPROCH VISI-

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BLE AS SUCH. EVEN IN THE CASEOF THE NONG CONG BIH GROUP, SENATORE DON MADE NO VISIBLE EFFORT ON BEHALF OF ANY OF THE 78 CANDIDATES ON HIS LIST; THE CANDIDATES SIMPLY IDENTIFIED

THEMSELVES AS NCB CANDIDATES.

10. SIGNIFICANT BLOCS MAY BE FORMED AMONG THE INDEPENDENTS OR FROM COMBINATIONS OF "INDEPENDENTS" AND SOME OF THE GROUPS REFERRED TO ABOVE. HO HUU TUONG, THE VETERAN TROTSKYIST AND NEUTRALIST ELECTED FROM THE FIRST ELECORAL DISTRICT IN SAIGON, TOLD AN EMBOFF OCT 26 THATHE OWED HIS ELECTION PRICIPALLY TOTHE BUDDHISTSOF BOTH THE MILITANT AND MODERATE FACTIONS. HOWEVER, SINCEHE DID NOT ACTIVELY CAMPAIGN, HE BELIEVES HE MADE NO ENEMIES, AND HE THOUGH THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE SUPPORT OF THE DOZEN OR SO DEPUTIES DIRECTLY CONSIDERED ACTIVE IN BUDDHIST AFFAIRS, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO FORM A LOWER HOUSE BLOC OF UP TO 50. THIS SOUNDS HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT TUONG FAIRLY CLEARLY HOPES TO BE ELECTED PRESI-

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DENT OF THE LOWER HOUSE AND WOULD NEED AS LARGE A BLOC AS THIS IN ORDER TO BE TAKEN SEROUSLY IN THE CONTEST FOR PRESIDENT.

11. IT IS TOO EARLY TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAN SKETCH OUT WHO THE LEADERS IN THE LOWER HOUSE ARE LIKELY TO BE. SINCE MANY

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OF THEM ARE HOLDING NATIONAL POLITICAL OFFICES FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THEY WILL GROW BEYOND THE STATUS OF REGIONAL OR LOCAL FIGURES THAT MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN HERETOFORE. ONE OF THE MORE ENCOURAGING ASPECTS OF THE CURRENT OPENINGSOF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IS THAT, THROUGH THE ELECTIONS, A LARGENUMBER OF PESONALITIES NEW TO THE POLITICAL SCENE ARE BENG BROUGHT TO THE CENTER OF THE STAGE, HOPEFULLY TO INJECT NEW IDEAS, NEW EXPERIENCE, AND NEW PERSPECTIVES WHIGH CAN BE NO LONGER BE FOUND AMONG SAIGON'S MORE EXPERIENCED BUT ALSO MORE JADED POLITICAL ELITE.

12. EVEN SO, SAIGON ITSELF WILL CONTRIBUTE A NUMBER OF FAIRLY VIGOOUS PERSONAITIES TO THE LOWER HOUSE. CERTAIN TO ATTRACT ATTENTION IS HO HUU TUONG, THE VETERAN TROTSKYIST ANDNEUTRALIST REFERRED TO ABOVE. TUONG IS A LIVING MEMENTO OF THE GREAT STURGGLES THAT CONVULSED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN THE 1930'S. NOW 57, BUT STILL VIGOROUS AND PHILOSOPHICAL DESPITE SIX YEARS' DENTETION ON POULO CONDORE (1958-64), TUONG IS EASY TO TALK TO, [redacted] ALTHOUGH NOT DOUBT DETERMINED b-1 ed

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TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. [redacted] b-1 ed

[redacted] ALSO LIKELY "COMERS" IN THE LOWER HOUSE ARE THE SAIGON MRS DEPUTIES, LY QUI CHUNG AND NGUYEN HUU CHUNG. ON THE MORE NEGATIVE SIDE, WE ARE LIKELY TO HEAR A GOOD EAL FROM NGUEYEN TRONG NHO, 28, AN

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ANTI DIEM AND ANTI KHANH STUDENT LEADER WHO WAS ONE OF THE MOST ANTI GVN CANDIATES IN THE CAMPAIGN. AN EXAMPLE OF A "NEW" FIGURE BUT ONE UNDERSTANDABLE IN AMERICAN TERMS, IS TRAN CONG QUOC, A 28 YEAR OLD SERVING NAVAL OFFICER WHO IS NOT KNOWN FOR ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL VIEWS BUT WHO WAS ELCTED IN PART BECAUSE HE IS IN THE NAVY AND IN PART BECAUSE HE IS GOOD LOOKING AND PROBABLY RECEIVED A PART OF THE FEMININE VOTE. ANOTHER SAIGON DEPTY IS THE STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST CHINESE DIEP VAN HUNG, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY SHOT AT BY WOULD BE COMMUNIST ASSASSINS OCT 11.

13 OUT SIDE OF SAIGON NEWLY ELECTED DEPUTIS ARE LESS WELL KNOWN. IN HUE, NGUEYN DAI BANG WAS ELECTED ON THE NCB TICKET, BUT HE HAD MILITANT BUDDHIST SUPPORT AS WELL. SPEAKING OF HIS CANDIDACY SHORTLY AFTER THE CAMPAIGN OPENED OCT 6, LY THAI VUONG, CHIEF OF THE RESERACH BUREAU OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION, EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN TO AN EMBOFF THAT BANG'S CANDIDACY HAD BEEN APPROVED, SINCE HE IS AN "EFFEREVESCENT" PERSONALITY. IN DANANG, PHAN XUAN HUY, A LECTURER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HUE, WAS ELECTED. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE

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EARLIER PORTION OF THE EXTREMIST BUDDHIST "STRUGGLE" MOVEMENT IN DANANG IN 66, THOUGH NOT IN THE LATTER STAGES. IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, PHAM TAN NHO WAS ELCTED WITH BUDDHIT SUPPORT. HAVING EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN PEACE DURING THE CAMPAIGN. BY CONTRAST, PERHAPS AS A TESTIMONY TO EFFECTIVE CMAPAIGNING, DOAN DINH DUONG WAS ELECTED IN BINH DINH PROVINCE. A FORMER SUPPORTER OF PRESIDENT DIEM, AMEMBER OF THE DIEMIST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND FORMER CAN LAO PARTY MEMBER, HE NEVERTHELSS WAS ELECTED, IN APRT WITH BUDDHIST SUPPORT. IN AN GIANG PROVINCE MRS TRAN THI HOA, THE WIDOW OF THE HOA HAO GENERAL, BA CUT, WHO WAS EXECUTED IN 56 WAS ELECTED, NO DOUBT ON THE STRENGHT OF LOCAL MEMORIES OF HER LATE HUSBAND.

14. THE BACKGROUND OF THE ABOVE FIGURES SUGGESTS THAT THE LOWER HOUSE WILL HAVE A SOMEWHAT MORE VARIED FLAVOR THAT THE FAIRLY STAID AND CONSERVATIVE UPPER HOUSE ELECTED SEPT 3.

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IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE SAME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOWER HOUSE AND UPPER HOUSE IS TO BE SEEN IN VIETNAM AS IN MANY COUNTRIES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE THIEU GOVERNMENT WILL NECESSARILY ENCOUNTER MUCH GREATER DIFFICULTY INTHE LOWER THAN THE UPPER HOUSE, ALTHOUGH

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IT SEEMS TO HAVE MORE NATURAL SUPPORTERS IN THE UPPER THAN IN THE LOWER HOUSE. COMMENTING ON THE ELECTION OUTCOME IN THE LOWER HOUSE TO AN EMBOFF OCT 25, DR PHAN QUANG DAN, DEFEATED VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, SAID THE GVN SHOULD HAVE SUPPORTED CANDIDATES IN THE LOWER HOUSE AND MADE THESE PREFERENCES KNOWN PUBLICLY. HE FELT THIS WOULD HAVE CRYSTALLIZED OPINION AND FACILITATED THE TASK OF THE VOTERS. THE GVN DID NOT DO SO, HOWEVER, AND THE TONE AND OUTLOOK OF THE LOWER HOUSE REMAIN SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN.

15. WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT THE LOWER HOUSE HAS A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, AND POTENTIALLY EFFECTIVE MEMBERS WHO ARE COLLECTIVELY CAPABLE OF PERFORMING A USEFUL JOB IN DEVELOPING THE SUBSTANCE OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. GENERALTHIEU HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION TO THE AMB OVER THE GENERAL ABILITY OF THE LOWER HOUSE, A JUDGEMENT WHICH WE SHARE.
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7946

S E C R E T SAIGON 7299

EXDIS

Par 14 Urs

1. WHILE REFERENCE HAS BEEN MADE TO SOME OF THE POLITICAL INFIGHTING WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON IN REGARD TO ASSEMBLY ACTION ON THE ELECTIONS (SAIGON 7310), I THINK I SHOULD REPORT IN MORE DETAIL ON ONE OF THE UNSAVORY INCIDENTS OF THE POLITICAL INFIGHTING (THIS BY MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE BLOC) WHICH HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE HERE WITHIN THE LAST TWO DAYS.

2. ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 28, FOUR MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE BLOC, MEMBERS OF THE SPECAIL ELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY, WHOSE SPOKESMAN WERE[redacted] AND [redacted] SENT FOR [redacted] AND INFORMED HIM THAT THEY WISHED ME TO TRANSMIT TO GENERAL THIEU AS A CONDITION

b-1 EC

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FOR VOTING FOR VALIDATION OF THE ELECTIONS THE FOLLOWING DEMANDS:

A. KY WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO MANE THE PRIME MINISTER;
B. KY WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO NAME THREE OTHER CABINET MEMBERS [redacted] INDICATING THAT THEY WOULD EXPECT TWO CABINET POSTS);

B-1/ED

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C KY WOULD CONTROL THE REORIGANIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZTION;
D. THAT EACH MEMBER OF THE DAB WOULD RECEIVE 300,000 PIASTERS;
E. THAT THIEU WOULD TAKE NO REPRISALS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE BLOC.

3. THEY WERE CONSIDERATE ENOUGH TO ADD THAT THEY WOULD WAIT UNTIL NOON THE NEXT DAY FOR MY ANSWER. ON FRIDAY MORNING [ ] I HAD THE ABOVE INFORMATION RELAYED TO HIM SAYING THAT I THOUGHT HE WOULD WANT TO BE AWARE OF THIS ATTEMPTED BLACKMAIL TO WHICH, OF COURSE, I HAD NO INTENTION OF RESPONDING; AND THAT I WAS SURE HE WAS AWARE WHAT THE REPERCUSSIONS WOULD BE SHOULD THIS BECOME PUBLIC b-1 e.c.

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KNOWLEDGE.

4. BUI DIEM CAME TO SEE ME FIRDAY EVENING TO SAY THAT HE AND GENERAL KY WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION. HE REPORTED THAT KY HAD TALKED TO SOME OF THE DAB MEMBERS, BUT HAD LET THEM DO MOST OF THE TALKING TO LET THEM BLOW OFF STEAM AND FIND OUT WHAT WAS BOTHERING THEM. HE AND KY THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT GENERAL THIEU SHOULD TALK TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BAB. THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT HIS FEELINGS TOWARD THEM WERE AND WERE APPREHENSIVE ON TWO COUNTS A) THAT HE MIGHT TAKE SOME REPRISALS AGAINST THEM, AND B) THATEHE MIGHT ATTEMPT TO FILL UP THE GOVERNMENT WITH DAI VIET MEMBERS. I RECALLED TO BUI DIEM THAT KY HAD TWICE GIVEN ME DEFINITE ASSURANCES THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE DAB WOULD VOTE FOR VALIDATION AND THAT I NEED HAVE NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN, AND I WAS THEREFORE RELYING ON HIM. I TOLD DIEM OF THE BLACKMAIL ATTEMPT ON THE PART OF [ ] AND THEIR COLLEAGUES AND ASKED HIM TO INFORM KY THAT IF THE MEMBERS OF THE DAB PERSISTED IN THEIR THREAT TO VOTE AGAINST VALIDATION, I INTENDED TO MAKE PUBLIC THIS ATTEMPT AT BALCKMAIL. THEY WERE PLAING A DANGEROUS b-1 e.d.

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GAME IN CARRYING THIS DOWN TO THE WIRE AND I WANTED IT UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY COULD NOT PLAY FAST AND LOOSE WITH US. I SAID THAT IF KY THOUGHT THIEU SHOULD TALK TO MEMBERS OF THE DAB HE SHOULD SAY SO TO THIEU AND HIMSELF BUT THAT I WOULD TRY TO SEE THIEU SATURDAYMORNING AND URGE HIM TO GET TOGETHER WITH KY ON THE PROBLEM.

5. I HAVE REPORTED ON MY TALK WITH THIEU SATURDAY MORNING (SAIGON 7319) AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS ARE BEING REPORTED REGULARLY[b-1 sec
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